



## ATV Safety



The St. Lawrence County Traffic Safety Program monitors deaths and injuries on our state and local roadways. One area of concern is a growing number of collisions involving all-terrain vehicles. Because many of these occur "off-road", they aren't reported via the same channels that traffic deaths are reported. Also, health regulations limit the use of some local statistics. Still, there is evidence that use of ATVs has an impact on highway safety in our county.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has been keeping track of deaths and injuries associated with these machines. According to their nation-wide statistics, in 2004 there were 136,100 ATV-related injuries that were treated in US hospital emergency rooms. That same year, an estimated 767 people died in ATV-associated incidents. Their figures for New York State show that there were 284 ATV-related deaths from 1982 through 2005 (data collection for 2005 was incomplete at the time the numbers were tallied).

The CPSC calculates that children are involved in about one-third of all ATV-related deaths and hospital emergency room injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries occur when a child is driving or riding on an adult ATV. Children under 16 on adult ATVs are twice as likely to be injured as those riding youth ATVs.

The bottom line is that adults need to make sure they understand the risks of ATVs. Parents should follow

### New York State ATV laws

- No passengers are allowed on the ATV unless it is designed to carry more than one person.
- All riders (operator and passengers) must wear a helmet at all times.
- All ATVs must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles, renewing registration once every year.
- ATV use on highways is prohibited, except to cross these roads.
- No one under 10 may ride or operate an ATV.
- Operators between 10 and 15 may ride an ATV if they are on their parent's land and supervised by a parent, or on their parent's land and in possession of a safety training certificate.
- No ATV shall be operated without a lighted headlight and taillight from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.
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**State Agency that Regulates ATVs:** Local County Sheriff

### Source; for this Article

**New York ATV Safety Net - from the New York State Association of Off-Road Vehicles**  
<http://www.nyatvsafety.net/>

**ATV Safety institute**  
<http://www.atvsafety.org/>

**ATV Safety of the Consumer Product Safety Commission - ATV information sheet**  
<http://www.atvsafety.gov/>